

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| Applicant(s): | Jacob R. Hall |) | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Serial No.: | 10/646,974 |))) Group Art Unit: | Unknown |
| Filed: | August 22, 2003 |) Gloup Art Onit: | |
| For: FIXING APPARATUS | | Examiner: | Unknown |
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97 and §1.98, documents that may be material to the examination of this application are listed on the attached PTO-1449 form. Copies of each document are enclosed.

Please note that U.S. Patent No. 5,735,441, which is cited in the specification, corresponds to Japan Patent Laying-Open No. 8-113175.

No inference should be drawn that the attached list represents a comprehensive investigation, or that any disclosure in the listed documents is equivalent to the subject invention.

The cited documents disclose numerous specific features. There has been no attempt to enumerate each and every feature disclosed by each document, however. The Examiner is requested to review these documents and to determine the extent of the materiality of the document disclosures, if any, with respect to the present invention.

The discussion of any art and the citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that the art or document disclosure is necessarily within the invention field of endeavor, that the art or document disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that the art or document disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art as defined by the patent law with respect to the instant invention and application.

The right to later set forth how the claimed invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosures of the art and documents

recited herein, and those that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application is reserved.

The recitation herein of the art and documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 15, 2003

OLSON & HIERL, LTD. 20 North Wacker Drive 36th Floor Chicago, Illinois 60606

(312) 580-1180

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and its attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 15, 2003.

Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in

conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Date Considered

Examiner

*Examiner: